

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Thursday after Pentecost

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

Feast

Invitatory

Ant. Let us give glory to Christ who has an eternal priesthood.

Invitatory Psalm, as in the Ordinary.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Jesus, our High Priest, only Mediator,
mercifully bringing prayers before the Father:
from every nation, justly we extol you,
singing your praises

Formed by the Spirit in the womb of Mary,
Son of the Virgin, your right arm embraces
all of creation, Sacrifice and Victim,
worthy of blessing.

Named by the Father Priest and King for ever,
you were anointed with the oil of gladness,
brought to high heaven and his throne of glory,
height of all honour.

God most exalted, mortal flesh assuming,
offering your life-blood, precious gift all cleansing,
you paid the ransom, price of our redemption,
death's curse removing.

Christ, who uplifted on the Cross of sorrow,
drew all creation, piercing hearts with ardour,
grant we may ever praise you and the Father,
one with the Spirit. Amen.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 I asked my Father, and he has given me the nations as an inheritance.

Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations conspire,
and the peoples plot in vain?
2 They arise, the kings of the earth;
princes plot against the LORD and his Anointed.
3 'Let us burst asunder their fetters.
Let us cast off from us their chains.'
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the LORD derides and mocks them.
5 Then he will speak in his anger,
his rage will strike them with terror.
6 'It is I who have appointed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain.'
7 I will announce his decree:
The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.
8 Ask of me and I will make nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth as your possession.
9 With a rod of iron you will rule them;
like a potter's jar you will shatter them.'
10 So now, O kings, understand;
take warning, rulers of the earth.
11 Serve the LORD with fear;
exult with trembling, embrace correction,
12 lest he be angry and you perish on the way,
for suddenly his anger will blaze.
Blessed are all who trust in God!

Ant. 1 I asked my Father, and he has given me the nations as an inheritance.

Ant. 2 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

Psalm 40 (39):2-13

- 2 I waited, I waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
- 3 He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock,
made my footsteps firm.
- 4 He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the LORD.
- 5 Blessed the man who has placed
his trust in the LORD,
and has not gone over to the proud
who follow false gods.
- 6 How many are the wonders and designs
that you have worked for us, O LORD my God;
you have no equal.
Should I wish to proclaim or speak of them,
they would be more than I can tell!
- 7 You delight not in sacrifice and offering,
but in an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.
- 8 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'
In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:
9 'I delight to do your will, O my God;
your instruction lies deep within me.'
- 10 Your righteousness I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O LORD.
- 11 Your saving help I have not hidden in my heart;
of your faithfulness and salvation I have spoken.

I made no secret of your merciful love
and your faithfulness to the great assembly.

12 You, O LORD, will not withhold
your compassion from me.
Your loving mercy and your faithfulness
will always guard me.

13 For I am beset with evils
too many to be counted.
My iniquities have overtaken me,
till I can see no more.
They are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart is sinking.

Ant. 2 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

Ant. 3 Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her, to make her holy.

Psalm 85 (84)

2 O LORD, you have favoured your land,
and brought back the captives of Jacob.

3 You forgave the guilt of your people,
and covered all their sins.

4 You averted all your rage;
you turned back the heat of your anger.

5 Bring us back, O God, our saviour!
Put an end to your grievance against us.

6 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will your anger last from age to age?

7 Will you not restore again our life,
that your people may rejoice in you?

8 Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.

9 I will hear what the LORD God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful,
and those who turn their hearts to him.

10 His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land.

11 Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
righteousness and peace have kissed.
12 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and righteousness look down from heaven.

13 Also the LORD will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.
14 Righteousness will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way.

Ant. 3 Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her, to make her holy.

R. Christ offered one sacrifice for sins.

V. And has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

FIRST READING

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Jesus, the great High Priest

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honour upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you’;

as he says also in another place,

‘You are a priest for ever,

According to the order of Melchizedek.’

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned

obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

RESPONSORY

Phil 2:8; Is 53:7

℟. Christ humbled himself, * becoming obedient even to death.
℣. He was sacrificed, for he himself willed it, * becoming...

SECOND READING

A reading from the Encyclical *Mediator Dei* of Pope Pius XII (AAS 39 [1947], 552-553)

Christ, Priest and Victim

Christ is a Priest indeed; however, he is a Priest not for himself but for us, since, in the name of the whole human race, he brings our prayers and religious dispositions to the eternal Father; he is also a victim, but a victim for us, since he substitutes himself for sinners.

Now the exhortation of the Apostle, 'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,' demands that all Christians should possess, as far as is humanly possible, the same dispositions as those which the divine Redeemer had when he offered himself in sacrifice: that is to say, they should with a humble attitude of mind, offer adoration, honour, praise and thanksgiving to the supreme majesty of God.

Moreover, it demands that they must assume in some way the condition of a victim, that they deny themselves as the Gospel commands, that freely and of their own accord they do penance and that each detests and makes satisfaction for his sins.

It demands, in a word, that we must all undergo with Christ a mystical death on the Cross so that we can apply to ourselves the words of St. Paul, 'I have been crucified with Christ' (Galatians 2:19).

RESPONSORY

Cf. Galatians 2:20

℟. I live by faith in the Son of God, * Who has loved me and has given himself up for me.
℣. I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me. * Who has loved me...

HYMN, Te Deum

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Singing together, heaven and earth acclaim you,
Christ Jesus, Saviour, humankind redeeming,
offering the Father fitting expiation,
Priest through the ages.

Led to the slaughter, Jesus, you accepted,
willingly, gently, death and all its torment,
that you might lead us, who were lost and broken,
through heaven's gateway.

Ending for ever former rites held sacred,
bringing fulfilment to the Prophets' writings,
now by a new love, you ordained a covenant
with God the Most High.

Merciful Author of so great a covenant,
you, the true Victim, food of life eternal,
placed on the altar, pledge of peace most holy,
you are the one Priest.

Christ, who uplifted on the Cross of sorrow,
drew all creation, piercing hearts with ardour,
grant we may ever praise you and the Father,
one with the Spirit. Amen.

Ant. 1 Through the blood of the Cross of Christ, the Father has established peace with all things, whether on earth or in heaven.

Psalms and canticle of Sunday, Week I.

Ant. 2 All things were created through Christ and in Christ.

Ant. 3 He has put all things under his feet and has made him Head over the whole Church, which is his Body.

SHORT READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, 'Lo, I have come to do your will, O God,'
as it is written of me in the roll of the book'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'Lo, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Psalm 40 (39):8-9

℟: Behold I come * that I may do your will. Behold I come...

℣: Your law is in my inmost heart. * That I may do your will. Glory be to the Father. Behold I come...

Benedictus ant. May they all be one, Father, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

INTERCESSIONS

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, you fill with your kindness all who approach you. As we begin this day, through Christ and with him and in him, we your children pray:

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
— lead us into the light of your truth.

Christ, Word of God, you are with the Father for ever;
— stir up in your faithful the will to proclaim the Gospel.

Jesus, Anointed of the Father in the Holy Spirit,
— consecrate your Church in holiness.

Christ, High Priest of the New Covenant,
— clothe Priests with your holiness, to the glory of the Father.

Christ, Wisdom of God, our peace and reconciliation,
— grant that we may be made one in heart and mind in your Church.

Christ, Eternal Priest, who glorify the Father,
— grant that in you our offering may be rendered as praise to your eternal glory.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who for the glory of your majesty
and the salvation of the human race,
made your Only Begotten Son the Eternal High Priest,
grant that, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
those whom he has chosen as ministers and stewards of his mysteries
may be found faithful in carrying out the ministry they have received.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer during the Day

Psalms of the occurring weekday.

Prayer before Noon

Ant. Through Christ we all have access to the Father in the one Spirit.

SHORT READING

Hebrews 7:26-27

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

℟️ Rejoice that you have a share in the sufferings of Christ.

℣️ That you may also rejoice and exult in the revelation of his glory.

Midday Prayer

Ant. You have been built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

SHORT READING

1 Peter 2:4-5

Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

℟️ As you have received Jesus Christ, the Lord, so walk in him.

℣️ Planted, and built up in him, and confirmed in faith.

Afternoon Prayer

Ant. Grace has been given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift, for the building-up of his Body, which is the Church.

SHORT READING

1 Peter 2:9-10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.

℟. Let the peace of Christ exult in your hearts.

℣. That peace in which you have also been called in the one Body.

Prayer, as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

O Christ, High Priest for evermore
of your eternal covenant,
our hymns and prayers are rightly yours:
we sing you songs of thankful love.

Proceeding from the Father's throne,
and moved with pity for our sin,
you came, obedient, weak, and poor,
incarnate in the Virgin's womb.

You came destroying ancient sin,
preparing all for light and grace;
the Father and the Paraclete
anointed you as Priest and King.

Unique, unblemished sacrifice,
you shed your blood for love of us;
in love you grant your children now
to glory in the Father's peace.

You give yourself eternally,
our altars' saving sacrifice,
the perfect One enthroned on high,
obtaining mercy for us all.

All praise to you, O Christ, High Priest
who live and reign and sacrifice,
and glory to the Father be
for endless ages still to come. Amen.

Ant. 1 The Lord has sworn an oath, and he will not change: You are a priest for ever.

Psalm 110 (109):1-5, 7

The LORD's revelation to my lord:
'Sit at my right hand,
until I make your foes your footstool.'

2 The LORD will send from Zion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of your foes.

3 With you is princely rule
on the day of your power.
In holy splendour, from the womb before the dawn,
I have begotten you.

4 The LORD has sworn an oath he will not change:
'You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

5 The Lord at your right hand,
shatters kings on the day of his wrath.

7 He shall drink from the stream by the wayside,
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Ant. 1 The Lord has sworn an oath, and he will not change: You are a priest
for ever.

Ant. 2 God, who is rich in mercy, has brought us to life together in Christ.

Psalm 111 (110)

1 Alleluia!
I will praise the LORD with all my heart,
in the meeting of the just and the assembly.

2 Great are the works of the LORD,
to be pondered by all who delight in them.

3 Majestic and glorious his work;
his righteousness stands firm forever.

4 He has given us a memorial of his wonders.
The LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.

6 His mighty works he has shown to his people
by giving them the heritage of nations.

7 His handiwork is justice and truth;
his precepts are all of them sure,

8 standing firm forever and ever,
wrought in uprightness and truth.

9 He has sent redemption to his people,
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name, to be feared.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
understanding marks all who live by it.
His praise endures forever!

Ant. 2 God, who is rich in mercy, has brought us to life together in Christ.

Ant. 3 Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Canticle Col 1:12-20

12 Let us give thanks to the Father who has made us worthy
to share the heritage of the holy ones in light.

13 He delivered us from the power of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation,

16 For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions, principalities or powers.

All were created through him and for him,
17 and he exists before all things,
and in him all things hold together.

18 He is the head of the body, the Church,
the beginning, the firstborn from the dead
19 that he may have primacy in all things.

For in him was all the fullness pleased to dwell,
20 and through him, to reconcile all things to himself,
both those on the earth, and those in the heavens,
making peace through the blood of his cross.

Ant. 3 Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

SHORT READING

Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Romans 5:1b-2b

℟. Let us have peace with God * through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us have peace...

℣. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of the children of God. *
Through our Lord. Glory be to the Father. Let us have peace...

Magnificat ant. Father, I pray for them, because they are yours and I consecrate myself for them, so that they may also be consecrated in the Truth.

INTERCESSIONS

Through Christ, let us pour forth our prayers to God the Father, who directs all things by his will and blesses all who trust in him.

With confidence we ask that you hear us.

Christ, Word of the Father,
— place on our lips the prayer we are about to offer.

Christ our Priest, Bread of Life,
— grant your chosen ones to live the gift of their own priesthood, as they bring their self-oblation to perfection in you.

Christ in glory, always interceding for us with the Father,
— keep us faithful in prayer, lest labourers should be lacking for your harvest.

Christ the Lord, sent by the Father,
— grant that in you all may find life and the way of the Kingdom.

Christ, Son of the living God, who by your death have conquered death,
— grant that the ultimate self-offering of our dead may bring them eternal joy in glory.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who for the glory of your majesty
and the salvation of the human race,
made your Only Begotten Son the Eternal High Priest,
grant that, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
those whom he has chosen as ministers and stewards of his mysteries
may be found faithful in carrying out the ministry they have received.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.